

Stories from November 2007

Friday 30/11/07 - 15.00

Gwent derby at Cwmbrân Stadium this weekend as Caerleon visit

The Crows are involved in yet another Gwent derby match this Saturday, as Caerleon visit Cwmbrân Stadium.

The last time the two clubs met was in last season's Gwent Senior Cup semi final, which ultimately saw the Crows squeeze into the final with two late goals after the visitors had dominated the first half.

Crows fans will be familiar with at least two of Caerleon's players, namely centre-back/centre-forward Josh Collins, and the skilful Kris Hanbury. Both Collins and Hanbury were regulars for the Crows over the previous couple of seasons.

Prior to last weekend's 2-1 defeat at home to Dinas Powys, Caerleon had strung together an impressive six-match unbeaten run stretching back to August. In fact they've only lost two league games of the ten that they've played, and currently sit in eighth position in the table with games in hand over pretty much every other club.

Following last week's defeat to Bridgend Town, the Crows are now without a win in three - conceding eight and scoring only two into the bargain. The squad has a number of capable strikers, so it's surely a case of 'when' rather than 'if' the goals start flowing again.

Kick-off is **14.00** - hope to see you there.

Wednesday 28/11/07 - 15.05

Reserves breathe down Newport's neck after Malpas win

Cwmbrân Town reserves kept up the pressure on league leaders Newport Civil Service last Saturday with a resounding victory over neighbours Malpas Gladiator, running out 5-0 winners in the end.

Newport themselves collected another three points with a 5-2 away win over Lucas Cwmbrân, and thus remain four points clear of the Crows albeit having played one more game.

Elsewhere, third met fourth as Albion Rovers recorded a 2-1 away win over Cwmbrân Celtic. Albion are a point behind the Crows but have played two more games.

Next up for the reserves is an away fixture with Trethomas Bluebirds on 01/12/07.

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[Saturday 24/11/07 - 20.05](#)

Crows grounded by an organised Bridgend side in wet and windy conditions

After a fairly even first half that Cwmbrân shaded in terms of goalscoring opportunities, the second half proved to be a disaster. An early own goal and a converted penalty kick knocked the stuffing out of the Crows. Former Crow Dale Raven then put the result beyond doubt with a fine diving header.

Despite throwing on two additional strikers, Ganet's men were unable to claim a consolation goal, and the game ended 3-0, which sees the Crows drop down to sixth in the league.

[Friday 23/11/07 - 14.05](#)

Crows off to the seaside - but there'll be no time to relax

After a week off for the international break, the Crows are back in action with an away trip to Bridgend Town this weekend. However, as Bridgend have sold their Coychurch Road ground and are awaiting the construction of a new stadium, they're playing their home games at Porthcawl Town's Lock's Lane ground.

Despite a slow start to their campaign, Bridgend have come on strong of late, and are currently undefeated in their last five outings. Hence they've dragged themselves up the table to tenth position after ten games.

They're scoring for fun at the moment, averaging over three goals a game, and you may think that's just down to their 11-1 walloping of hapless Garw in September, but they've actually been on the rampage since then. They put six pasted Pontypridd, seven pasted Croesyceiliog, and five pasted Caldicot, and inexplicable drew 0-0 with Taffs Well in between.

At the beginning of the season, a few former Crows had signed for Bridgend, namely Michael Parkins, Jason Davies, and Kris Hanbury. Although I believe Hanbury has now moved on to Caerleon.

For those looking to visit what's alleged to be the windiest ground in the Welsh League, take a look at these [directions](#).

The word from Cwmbrân Town HQ is that Guillermo Ganet has a full squad to choose from for this encounter, including Ricky Hodge who returns from suspension.

Kick-off is at 14.00 - hope to see you there.

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Wednesday 21/11/07 - 14.40

League Cup round three draw, plus new website tool

The third round of the Nathaniel Car Sales League Cup was drawn over the weekend, and West End (the club that beat the club that knocked the Crows out) have been drawn at home to Newport YMCA. See the full draw [here](#).

Under the Senior Team section, i've added an item labelled [League Statistics](#). Within is a handy tool that shows all sorts of statistics about Welsh League division one, and the member clubs.

You can play about with the league table to show current form on the **Table** tab, view all the results so far on the **Matches** tab, marvel at result frequency and win percentages on the **Statistics** tab, and, my favourite, compare team statistics on the **Compare teams** tab.

Please bear in mind that it may be a bit slow to start. Any questions or comments to info@cwmbantownafc.co.uk - cheers!

Tuesday 20/11/07 - 15.00

Manager merry-go-round

Former Taffs Well and Llanelli manager Nicky Tucker has left Dinas Powys to take up the hotseat at Port Talbot Town. Tucker took Taffs Well into the Welsh League first division a few seasons ago, and then kept Llanelli in the Welsh Premier League when relegation threatened prior to the Jesco take-over. He leaves Dinas in a healthy fifth position in division one.

Former Goytre United manager Craig Duggan has taken up the vacant managers position at Afan Lido. Duggan left Goytre a few weeks ago citing United's lack of ambition with regard to promotion to the WPL. He now takes charge of the division's only unbeaten side, and will face his former team in his first match in charge.

Monday 19/11/07 - 16.55

Reserves move into second place after derby win

After the previous weekend's 0-0 home draw with Lliswerry, the reserves got back on the title trail with a 2-0 away victory over neighbours Lucas Cwmbân. That result, coupled with a home defeat for Cwmbân Celtic, moves the Crows into second place.

Elsewhere, title rivals Albion Rovers were without a game, and table-toppers Newport Civil Service walloped Spencer Y&B 8-0. See the current Premier Y table [here](#).

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[Friday 16/11/07 - 13.20](#)

Title race wide open as Ton Pentre lose at home

Only one unbeaten club remains in Welsh League division one following the shock 2-0 home defeat of league leaders Ton Pentre by Caerleon on Wednesday evening.

That same evening, Bryntirion leapfrogged the Crows into third position with a crucial 2-1 victory over second-placed Goytre United.

With all the teams near the top of the league taking points off each other, this year's title race could be one of the most open in recent times. Clubs currently outside the top six such as Aberaman, Caerleon, and Afan Lido are all within touching distance with games in hand. In fact, if Caerleon win their games in hand, they'll find themselves in the top two.

Afan Lido are now the only unbeaten side in the division, and continued their promising form with a 2-1 home victory over recovering Maesteg Park last Tuesday evening. Like Caerleon, if Lido win their games in hand, they could fine themselves a lot further up the table.

[Saturday 10/11/07 - 17.35](#)

Former WPL sides play out a dour scoreless draw

For all their possession, the Crows were unable to create any clear-cut scoring opportunities, while at the other end, keeper Jeffries made sure Lido were denied all three points on more than one occasion. Despite only picking up the one point, Cwmbrân Town move up to third place in the table, albeit having played two or three games more than their rivals.

[Friday 09/11/07 - 15.00](#)

Cwmbrân Town welcomes former WPL side Afan Lido to Cwmbrân Stadium

This weekend sees Cwmbrân Town welcome one of the league's undefeated clubs to Cwmbrân Stadium. Afan Lido may be in eleventh position, but of the seven matches they've played, they've avoided defeat on each occasion.

This fixture has a certain Welsh Premier League whiff about it as both clubs have had the misfortune of being relegated from the top flight. Despite beating Lido in both fixtures during their relegation year, the Aberafon side have proved to be the Crows' bogey side throughout the seasons - a 1-0 'home' defeat on a cold winter's

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night at the temporary home of Leckwith Stadium springs to mind!

In addition to being undefeated, Lido are pretty scrooge-esque at the back - conceding less than a goal a game, so despite the Crows banging in on average over three goals a game, the strikers will have to be on form to secure the points on Saturday.

Manager Ganet will be without Ricky Hodge as he is suspended for one match due to collecting five yellow cards so far this season, and back-up keeper Gareth Williams has been transferred to Gwent County League division two side Llanhilleth Athletic. Otherwise, the rest of the squad will be available.

Kick-off is **14.00** - hope to see you there.

Thursday 08/11/07 - 15.15

Cwmbân Town reserves lose out in Cwmbân derby

The reserve team lost their first game of the season last weekend to bitter rivals Cwmbân Celtic to the tune of 4 goals to 2. Despite this hiccup, the Crows remain one place above Celtic on goal difference and with a game in hand. They also have four games in hand over league leaders Albion Rovers, and two games in hand over second-place Newport Civil Service, whilst only being two points adrift of both teams.

In other news, Newport YMCA beat league rivals Cambrian & Clydach 3-2 away last night. Newport's defeat to us has obviously done them some good, as this win follows their great win in the Welsh Cup last weekend, knocking out Carmarthen Town. Cambrian now only have two games in hand over the Crows, and remain in fourth position.

Tuesday 06/11/07 - 17.00

More reasons to join the Cwmbân Town AFC membership scheme

In the last few days, Cwmbân Town AFC have teamed up with two local firms to offer discounts to all members of the Cwmbân Town AFC membership scheme.

Members can now claim discounts from limo/classic car hire firm **Casey's Cars**, and local Indian cuisine restaurant **Nawab Tandoori**.

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Monday 05/11/07 - 13.20

Crows shot down by rampant champions!

The Crows found themselves 4-0 down at half time to an irresistible Goytre side, and with a mountain to climb in the second half. Despite Ohene Quinhare getting his fourth goal in two Welsh League games, and Ricky Hodge notching his fourth of the season, Cwmbrân still slumped to a 5-2 defeat.

The Crows now drop to fifth place in the table, and having played more games than those around them.

Friday 02/11/07 - 13.50

The Crows fly west to take on the champions this weekend

The Crows are on their travels this weekend, as they head west to Port Talbot to face defending division one champions Goytre United.

Goytre are currently two places and a single point being the Crows going into this match, after suffering two consecutive league defeats. Last weekend they lost 3-2 at home to Aberaman Athletic, and the week before they lost 1-0 away to Cambrian & Clydach. Previous to these two setbacks, United were actually unbeaten in all eight fixtures.

Cwmbrân are back to winning ways with last week's 6-3 home win over Newport YMCA, but should find the defending champions a completely different kettle of fish, especially at their Glenhafod Park Stadium.

Some good news for the Crows is the possible return to the club of striker Moses Molongo, albeit not in time for this particular fixture. The man from Cameroon would find himself up against stiff competition with the recent acquisition of Ohene Quinhare who bagged a hat trick on his league debut last weekend.

For those looking to travel, take a look at these [directions](#). And take a look at the advice on the Goytre United [website](#).

With the three clubs above them all in Welsh Cup action this weekend, a victory of at least three clear goals would actually see the Crows top the table. Kick-off is at the earlier time of 14.00, which will be case for all league fixtures from now until next April.